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SCHAEFF'S FURS
Elegant DRESSES
The Pillars, Rosh Hashana, Jerusalem

Column One By David Courtney

LET us praise the Army. If the pompous statesmen in the Palais de Chaillot were suddenly to discover how to live and let live; if the Arab League were to flower all at once into goodwill and good neighbourliness; if swords were to be beaten into ploughshares and the atom diverted from war to peace, even then the Army of Israel or something very like it would be needed as an organization of succour.

FOR every settled and comfortable citizen in this country there is at least one who is unsettled and uncomfortable wholly or largely, and he is the one upon whom the fury of the aggressive elements falls heavier. Half the population of Israel is dependent on the other half for its defence against the enmity of merciless nature. Aside from government and national institutions that other, luckier half, sheltered by strong walls and stable roofs and kept warm by good clothes and hot food, has deputed its responsibility to the Army. Fortunately it is that the Army has proved itself loyal and selfless and immensely diligent.

THE succouring of the helpless and hapless tent and hut dweller amid the wind and rain is a national duty. The readiness of the Army and Police to perform that duty and the efficiency with which it is done have prevented severe hardship from becoming widespread catastrophe; and the results, as well as the occasion itself, have shown how useful it is for the State to maintain a large, organized body of men and women capable of meeting such emergencies when they arise. Happily, Israel's Army just now is not otherwise preoccupied. It is not at war or expecting to be. One may profoundly hope that it never will be, but there is no guarantee that it will always be available as the nation's main instrument of succour in the event of natural calamity. Wind and rain have brought up a very large section of the community during the week.

IT is salutary to speculate on what might have happened if the Army and the Police had not been at hand in such numbers and with such means during the storm. Where then would succour have come from? The answer should be a clear and confident one. In fact, it can only be given doubtfully, if hopefully. Last winter's appeal to the public to give lodging to immigrant children was not a success from the sociological viewpoint, and was not repeated this year. The voluntary system is always the best system among a thoroughly public-spirited people. It is not much good when the people are less public-spirited than they should be.

NOT very much can be done this winter to bring the fortunate half of the general public actively into a service of amelioration. What might be done is to set in operation a more urgent and effective scheme for the collection of warm clothing for the many thousands of children and adults, who are most desperately in need of warm clothing. A visit to some of the makeshift camps revealed the astounding fact that large numbers of children and their parents are without shoes or stockings. Many of the children are still wearing clothes that they have hopelessly grown out of since they came here two and even three years ago. Legs blue with cold are a common sight. There may be many reasons for this state of affairs, including the "hoarding" by ignorant parents of the warm clothing distributed to them. But even that does not constitute a valid excuse.

THE Army has done wonderfully well, so has the Police. The comfortable half of the public should follow the example the Army and the Police have set. For the winter is not over by any means.

Tel Aviv, December 20

Nat'l Insurance Bill Tabled In Knesset

A national insurance bill covering old age, accidents, maternity and death was tabled in the Knesset yesterday. Mrs. Golda Myerson, the Minister of Labour, will introduce the bill shortly. Described as the first instalment of a comprehensive social insurance programme, the bill is a revision of a draft tabled in the First Knesset but which never came up for House action.

Premiums for old age and life insurance will be 2.5 per cent of income, but will not exceed IL3 per month. Employers will pay 50 per cent of workers' premiums which will be based upon wages, while others will pay their own premiums on the basis of income tax returns.

Old age pensions, according to the provisions, will be paid to women retiring at the age of 60 and men at 65, to women at 65 and to men at 70 if they continue working. Widows will get full pensions only if they have minor children, if they are over 50 and if they are incapable of supporting themselves.

Monthly pensions will be paid as follows:
1) basic payments of IL4 for the principle (retired workers) or in the case of death, widows;
2) dependent allowances of up to IL4;
3) additional payments of two per cent of the basic and dependent allowances for each year of insurance above the first 15, but with a 50 per cent ceiling.

A woman with a child, whose husband died after 15 years of insurance, would get IL2,500 per month. According to the proposals, a woman without children who is widowed between the ages of 45 and 50 will get 75 per cent of pension, 50 and 45, 50 per cent; younger women will get 25 per cent. In cases of death, grants of IL30 will be made towards funeral expenses for deceased over 15 years of age, and IL15 for younger deceased. Workers' accident insurance rates, which will be payable by employers, will range from 0.5 to 3 per cent of wages, depending upon the element of risk involved in the work. This will entitle insured persons to medical assistance, including hospitalization and orthopedic or therapeutic assistance, if necessary; convalescence, medical and rehabilitation; compensation during incapacitation amounting to 75 per cent of wages for periods exceeding 26 weeks; pensions coming to 75 per cent of wages in case of total disability; and pensions to a maximum of 90 per cent of the pension for total disability. Maternity insurance premiums will be 0.6 per cent of wages and will be split between employers and employees. IL10 in goods, or cash for each child, and from IL3 to IL10 a week for a maximum of 12 weeks for maternity leave. Unlike the U.S. and Great Britain, the insurance will not be administered by the Government Agency but will be controlled by a special body, as in most continental countries.

Floods Subside In Ma'barot

TEL AVIV, Wednesday. — The floods in all Ma'barot were tonight reported by the Jewish Agency to have ebbed and all residents with the exception of those at Nahariya and 150 persons from the Hiriya Ma'bara, near Tel Aviv, today returned to their homes. Rehabilitation work in the Ma'barot is in full swing and is being carried out by the Army, the Jewish Agency, Absorption Department and Solal Boneh. During the day 400 canvas huts were sent to various Ma'barot to replace damaged ones and to provide new ones where necessary.

Large scale relief and reconstruction operations began in greater Haifa and Western Galilee yesterday were spurred on by a temporary improvement in the weather and in expectation of new downpours. Efforts are being made to repair some of the widespread damage and to restore a modest measure of comfort to those affected by yesterday's rain and flood.

Hardest hit probably were the Nahariya Ma'bara and Ain Hamifratz, south of Acre. Both were inundated by about 18 cm. of water.

The damage to agriculture throughout Western Galilee is considerable. The damage to agriculture throughout Western Galilee is considerable. The damage to agriculture throughout Western Galilee is considerable.

Yagur Flooded. Yagur today reported serious damage from a stream which rushed down from the Carmel, flooding half of the living quarters, and sweeping away one hut with all its contents. Workshops, storerooms, the beehives, a cowshed, the chicken-run and vegetable fields have suffered badly. Despite this, the settlers made room for 150 inhabitants of the Kfar Hassidim Ma'bara, whose conditions were described by a report as tragic. A Yagur secretary said that 152.4 mm. of rain fell in 18 hours yesterday, a downpour the like of which has not occurred since 1927.

The Chief of Staff, Maj. Aluf Yigal Yadin, today sent a message of encouragement to the settlers who had sided the Ma'barot in distress. The help which the soldiers had willingly rendered day and night served to encourage residents of the Ma'barot, he said.

At Ain Hamifratz, the settlers moved from home to home on tractors. All the children, the pioneer youth group in training at the settlement, and many members were taken to safety. The settlement needed only technical assistance and an engineer, the Secretary said today. The imminent collapse is feared of many houses and huts whose foundations have been submerged for many hours.

The waters of the Banias, the Jordan, and Lake Huleh, receded today after a heavy rain in the old bed of the Jordan, south of Neot Mordecai, was blown up with explosives. The blow-up raised a 300-metre tract near the northern shore of the Lake.

Police from Tiberies and Safed were alerted yesterday to aid the settlements in the Huleh region. Trucks were requisitioned to move the children in case of need. Police by Army stood by until 10 o'clock this morning and Kfar Gidid prepared beds for 400 children. Huts, vegetable fields, orchards and chicken-run at Nebetia, Kfar Blum, Amir, Neot Mordecai and Lahav Hashahar, were badly damaged.

Kfar Haneel in Upper Galilee has also been isolated for the past few days. The approach to the kibbutz is blocked by a wall of mud two metres high and many metres wide. A Public Works Department squad brought up machinery today to clear a path.

No rain was reported in Upper Galilee.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 3)

West Says Soviet SACME Protest 'Interference'

WASHINGTON, Wednesday. — The Soviet warning to the Middle East countries not to participate in SACME committee "an interference in the affairs of these countries," it was alleged today in a U.S. note to the Soviet Union.

The statement, which was handed to Mr. Andrei Gromyko in Moscow today, and which was similar in content to the British, French and Turkish notes handed to Mr. Gromyko yesterday, was in reply to earlier Soviet complaints that SACME was part of an aggressive military plan against the Soviet Union.

The texts of the Western statements were released simultaneously today, but it was found that the text of the British note was generally milder in tone than that of the U.S. communication.

All the notes denied the aggressive character of SACME and NATO and challenged the Soviet Union to prove her peaceful intentions.

Meanwhile, the Soviet press is showing increased sympathy for Egypt and Iran, and great courtesy was shown to the Egyptian Minister to Moscow, Anis Asar, who left for Paris recently.

Sharett, Vyshinsky Talk Predicted

PARIS, Wednesday (AP). — Mr. Andrei Vyshinsky and Mr. Moshe Sharett are expected to meet tomorrow or Friday to discuss Israel's role in the Western-backed Middle East Command.

The two Foreign Ministers are also expected to exchange views on Soviet policy regarding emigration to Israel. The Soviet Union and her Communist satellites are the only nations which now prohibit emigration of Jews to the young state.

Mr. Vyshinsky has been showing an increasing interest in recent weeks towards the Middle East states. He held a long and earnest conversation on Monday night with Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League.

President's Health Still Grave

The remarkable improvement in the condition of President Weizmann which was noted last week and which led to the discontinuance of the daily medical bulletins last Friday, has not been maintained this week, it is learned.

The doctors in attendance continue to report "no change" in their patient's general state of health. For the past few days, however, he has not been able to receive any visitors, and only members of his immediate family and the doctors attending him have seen the President.

McDaniel Meets With P.M., Kaplan, Joseph

Mr. Bruce McDaniel, Administrator of American grant-in-aid funds in Israel, accompanied by Ambassador Monnet B. Davis yesterday paid a brief courtesy call on Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, Minister of Finance Eliezer Kaplan, and Minister of Commerce Dov Joseph in Jerusalem.

The meeting, which was held at the Prime Minister's Office, gave Mr. McDaniel the opportunity to meet the Ministers with whom he will most often be dealing. The "business sessions" are expected to begin next week, when Mr. McDaniel is again scheduled to visit Jerusalem to confer with Mr. Eliezer Kaplan, Director General of the Prime Minister's Office, and other Government officials who will be directly concerned with grant-in-aid matters.

It also was learned that the Ministry of Finance is setting up an office at its Jerusalem headquarters in the Mitzpach Building to handle grant-in-aid affairs.

Knesset Extends Emergency Rules

The Knesset yesterday extended until the end of 1952 the Emergency Regulations permitting the Defence Minister to establish security zones within 10 kilometres from the border north of the 31st parallel and 25 kilometres south of the line.

Mapam sought to curb the bill. Mr. Yitzhak Ben Aharon proposed amendments designed to reduce the size of the security areas and to require the consent of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee for the implementation of certain details of the bill.

U.N. Adopts Western Disarmament Scheme

Renewed Warfare Looms in Korea

PANMUNJOM, Wednesday. — U.N. delegates reported no progress over today's session of the Korean armistice talks. General William H. Newell, U.N. spokesman, told newsmen after today's session that the Allies would refuse to compromise on their demand for unlimited notation of troops and replenishment of arms during the armistice. He hinted that the Allies are prepared to renew offensive warfare on December 28, one day after the provisional cease-fire expires.

Gen. Newell said that a Communist negotiator, General Hsieh Feng, took note for the first time that there are only eight days remaining. This was the first mention by the Communists of the 30-day trial offer, which is our offer.

U.N. Studies Roster

Meanwhile, the prisoner of war issue was still far from solution. No meeting of the subcommittee discussing prisoners was scheduled for today, but the U.N. Command was finishing its analysis of the Communist prisoner roster. Liaison officers will arrange a meeting after the submitted data is studied.

Problems still remaining are firstly, natural satisfaction with the prisoner lists and, secondly, the mechanical details of exchange — where, how and when the exchange of prisoners will take place.

On the battle-front, death took a holiday yesterday for the second time in three days. Not a single U.N. soldier was killed in action during 24 hours. The last U.N. soldier was killed on Tuesday night, however, when a Communist battalion hurled itself against U.N. lines north of Chonchon, on the west central front. Allied troops repulsed the attack after a bitter 12-hour fight.

Persian Opposition Barred from Radio

TEHERAN, Wednesday (Reuters). — The Persian Government last night banned Opposition election broadcasts on Teheran Radio, shortly after Opposition Leader Jemal Ismail was to broadcast to the nation.

Teheran's Governor-General resigned today in protest against the Government's "irregularities" in the conduct of the country's general elections, which opened yesterday.

British Public Sceptical On Anglo-French Complete Accord

LONDON, Wednesday. — The Churchill-Pleven communiqué was received rather cynically here and no one really believes that complete agreement was reached "on Europe, the Middle and Far East." Coming after the violent discord voiced at Strasbourg and Paris, the claim of agreement on a European army and authority can only mean complete agreement to differ.

In this connection, the only real basis for a policy change would be a greater conviction on the part of the British people that a European authority and army are desirable and practicable, that the Europeans are reliable, and that the situation is serious enough to warrant such steps.

Cat Out of Bag

If this means anything, it lets the pedigree cat out of the bag, inasmuch as it implies that U.S. control of the political aspects of the Korean war are not quite trusted by Mr. Churchill. This may be true, but the communists carefully eschewed the point.

Meanwhile, the press here is extremely reticent regarding the real hopes placed on Mr. Churchill's coming visit to the U.S. namely, increased aid and decreased armistice burden for fear of accusations of blackmail, yet almost every official, journalist and politician here has dividedly hoped for such a reduction while officially prayed to the contrary.

Russian Amendments Rejected

PARIS, Wednesday (AP). — The U.N. Political Committee today adopted, by an overwhelming majority, the Western disarmament plan and rejected Russian demands for immediate and unconditional prohibition of the atomic bomb. The Committee's decision, taken after the longest debate in U.N. history on one subject, moved now be considered by the General Assembly at a plenary session.

U.N. Agency For Germany Decided

PARIS, Wednesday (UPI). — The Special Political Committee today voted in favour of a Western proposal to send a five-nation commission to all parts of Germany to see if it is possible to hold free elections.

The vote was 49 to nine, with nine abstentions. It also voted, 45 to six, with eight abstentions, to set up a five-man commission for Germany. The Soviet Bloc and Israel voted against the creation of the committee.

The Russians and East Germans have already said they will not permit such a commission in the Soviet zone of Germany. Poland was proposed by the West as a member of the commission, but she rejected the invitation.

The Committee adjourned without opening a discussion on the Indian complaint against South Africa on the treatment of people of Indian origin in Natal and the Transvaal. The item was not reached today because a dispute between the Indian delegates and the Chairman, Mr. Selim Sarraf of Turkey, prolonged the discussion of free German elections.

Churchill Back From Visit to France

LONDON, Wednesday (Reuters). — British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, returned to London today from their two-day talks in Paris with French leaders on topics for his Washington trip next month.

He went straight into a cabinet meeting, which lasted two and a quarter hours.

Cairo Belittles Talk with Eden

CAIRO, Wednesday. — No negotiations whatever on any question connected with the resumption of Anglo-Egyptian talks had taken place between Salah e-Din and Mr. Anthony Eden during the talks in Paris yesterday, the Acting Foreign Minister, Faraj Pasha, told ANA in Cairo yesterday.

He said that Salah e-Din had been instructed to make a full report on his meeting with Mr. Eden, which will be submitted to the Egyptian cabinet at its weekly Sunday session.

Vatican Recognition

Meanwhile, NEBS reported that Amr Pasha, Egypt's Ambassador to London, left Paris yesterday afternoon on route to Cairo. He was recalled from his post in London at the end of last week.

Cairo Radio last night announced that the Vatican had recognized Israel's statehood as the Kingdom of Israel and the Sudan, and had expressed its willingness to enter into diplomatic relations.

Knesset Passes Budget First Reading

By Moshe Brilliant, POST Parliamentary Correspondent
Finance Minister Eliezer Kaplan disclosed in the Knesset last night that the recent fall of the Israel pound on the Zurich market to 50 cents resulted from the panic sale of "hot money." The holders, he explained, had learned of the plan to issue new currency notes.

They suspected that all people with Israel money would have to come forward and declare their holdings. Those with money abroad — including Arab countries — began to dispose of it at any price. Foreign banks also were infected by the panic. After studying the problem which admittedly had a bad psychological effect in the country, the Government had decided not to intervene in the matter, Mr. Kaplan declared.

He stressed that the panic had nothing to do with the real purchasing power of the Israel pound. This had been acknowledged earlier in the debate by Dr. Peretz Bernstein, (General Zionist) who had said that the purchasing power of the pound was higher than its black market price.

Mr. Kaplan was speaking at midnight last night at the close of a non-stop 12-hour session on the budget. After his speech, the House voted to send the Finance Committee for further action. The estimates must be returned to the Knesset for final reading by December 31, when the provisional estimates run out.

Dealing with some points raised by Arab spokesmen Seif el Din el Zuabi and Meadli Jaber, Mr. Kaplan declared that every pruta of income from Waqf property was spent for Moslem activities. Arab school teachers will henceforth draw the same wages as Jewish teachers, he added.

Mr. Kaplan reaffirmed the desire of the Government to foster a spirit of citizenship and equality amongst the Arabs. He said the Government felt that the State should take over from the United Nations responsibility for the 21,000 Arabs in Israel who were designated as refugees. But, he said, the State did not wish to keep them on relief but to absorb them into the economy and make them self-supporting.

He pleaded for cooperation in settling the problem and complained that suspicion and agitation had deterred Arabs from going to places where they were sent for their own good and for the good of the country.

The Finance Minister, who spoke for 60 minutes, devoted only 10 minutes to the actual budget. He denied that it was inflationary as Opposition speakers had complained. He pointed out that the increase of the security budget

from IL12 m. to IL18 m. did not mean that the cost of military preparedness was higher, but only that a larger share was being borne out of internal revenue. Further, the higher communications (postal and railway services) appropriations were balanced by income. These two items aside, he went on, the budget for services was up by 30 per cent. This reflected the increase in population by 15 per cent as well as the inflation in the country.

Dealing with charges that the worsening economic situation had accelerated the reduction of immigration, Mr. Kaplan said that he fully agreed with the Jewish Agency's decision. He pointed out that of the 77,000 bonds of redemption from the past year, 42 per cent were over 16 years of age and 22 per cent were under 16. It might have been the intention of the Government to absorb the immigrants, but the Government was not in a position to do so. One of the most important speeches yesterday was by Dr. Yehoshua Herta (Progressive), who asked for reductions in expenditures for security and immigration. He also called for a reduction of public works and the use of the Government's credit to increase production. Mr. Moshe Shapira (Progressive), called for a National Government in this emergency.

The General Zionist speakers all said the party had been prepared to start the burden of government with Mapai, but had been surprised. Mr. Ezra Ichilov and Mr. Haim Arlos said that the administration had retarded the development of private farming and citrus culture and thus lost some of foreign exchange for the state. Mrs. Shoshana Peretz (United List) said that the Government had been negligent in the management of the economy and in the handling of the immigration of the country.

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